



SHARP News

SHARP Community Leaders Needed

Your NEHC Sexual Health and Responsibility Program (SHARP) needs your help in the fight against STD, HIV, and unplanned pregnancy. SHARP is presently seeking a volunteer to serve as the **SHARP Community Leader** at each major Navy and USMC installation.

What is a SHARP Community Leader? SHARP Community Leaders help SHARP Area Coordinators. They **promote** the SHARP mission and SHARP products with local line and medical leaders, Command health promoters, volunteer instructors, preventive medicine and health promotion professionals, *Semper Fit* program managers, PPIP coordinators, indoctrination program coordinators, women's health programs, and other community leaders and groups. A detailed **SHARP Leader's Guide** is available at the SHARP website at:

<http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/sharp/pubresource.htm>.

Why do we need your help? STDs are among the 10 most frequently reported communicable diseases among active duty Sailors and Marines from 1990-1999. Over 4,500 active duty Sailors and Marines have been infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). STDs, including HIV, have a major public health impact, with 15.3 million new cases each year in the US alone. Of the top ten infections in the U.S., five are STDs. The total number of HIV infected people in the U.S. is estimated to range from 650,000 to 900,000, equaling 1 in 300 Americans. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests the incidence of AIDS to be increasing 5% per year overall, with an increase of 15% each year for heterosexual transmission. The direct medical costs of STD and HIV treatment in the U.S. is an estimated \$8.4 billion per year. Self reported prevalence of STD, while low, is higher in the Navy than the other services. In 1996, almost two-thirds of the pregnancies among Navy enlisted women were unplanned. Condom use at last encounter among sexually active unmarried active duty personnel was 42% for all of DoD with Navy personnel lowest of the military services at 39%. These rates are lower than Healthy People 2000 objective of 50%.

Some of you are collocated with SHARP Area Coordinators (see our listing at <http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/SHARP/AreaCoordinators.htm>). These fine volunteer Area Coordinators still need your help locally to promote SHARP. Please drop by and visit your collocated Area Coordinator and ask how you can help.

Volunteer SHARP Community Leaders will receive a SHARP Toolbox Compact Disk, SHARP promotional items, and a Certificate of Appreciation from your Navy Environmental Health Center. You'll also receive the satisfaction of knowing you've helped our Sailors and Marines to "chart a safe course".

To learn more about SHARP and to volunteer to be a SHARP Community Leader, visit our homepage, and see the **SHARP Leader's Guide** at: <http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/sharp/pubresource.htm>, then **contact us** at: (757) 462-5566 {DSN 253}, or e-mail: <mailto:macdonaldb@nehc.med.navy.mil>.

"Chart a Safe Course"

Sexual Health and Responsibility Program (SHARP)

Navy Environmental Health Center, Health Promotion, 2510 Walner Ave, Norfolk VA 23513-2617
(757) 462-5566 (DSN 253) fax: DSN 444-1345 <http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp>